

Avril de Ste. Croix; (b) "Traffic in Arms" Mr. John Harris, M.P.; and (c) "Traffic in Liquor" Miss Agnes Slack and Viscountess Astor, M.P.—will doubtless secure a large audience.

On May 8th, "Democratic Control of Foreign Affairs," "The International Mind in Governments"; and the Conference will conclude with "What Women Can Do to Aid in the Prevention of War," by Lady Aberdeen.

The three public meetings to be held on May 5th, 6th, and 8th are arranged for 3 in the afternoon.

A leaflet "A Question for Everywoman" has been issued.

"Women, whoever you may be, now reading this leaflet, will you help to save the children of the world from starvation, plague, infirmity, terror, death, and worse than death?"

If the hounds of War are once more let loose, we know only too well that *our opportunity will have been lost*. The women of each belligerent country would again be swept into the maelstrom with the rest of the population, vainly endeavouring to assuage the miseries they have failed to prevent.

You ask: "What can I do?"

We answer: "Become a member of the Conference" and apply for a ticket (price 15s.) to the Secretary, I.C.W. Conference Office, 26, Victoria Street, London, S.W., enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope. This will entitle you to admission to the Conference and to the Exhibition during the Conference and a copy of the Report.

The Six-Point Group with Viscountess Rhondda in the chair, held a mass meeting on Tuesday, March 18th, at the Queen's Hall to discuss three reforms which women have every reason to demand from the Government this session. They are: Pensions for Widowed Mothers, Equal Rights of Guardianship for Married Parents, and the rectification of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act.

The speakers were all agreed that this is not a minority Government as far as these reforms are concerned, as a large majority of M.P.s are pledged to support them.

The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, London, W., has issued a leaflet on "Legitimation of Illegitimate Children by the subsequent Intermarriage of their Parents," and as about 40,000 children are born out of wedlock every year in England and Wales, it is high time legislation to this end should be effected. It is not according to modern ideas of justice that a child should suffer for the sins of its parents.

The Turkish Parliament has adopted the new Constitution, giving the vote to every Turk over 18, including women.

This is the latest step in the movement for the "emancipation" of Turk women which recently led to the abolition of the yashmak, with which the women hid their faces from the gaze of men.

The Women's Enfranchisement Bill passed its second reading at Cape Town on February 16th.

WHERE TO GET GOOD CLOTHES.

Nurses resident in the West of London will be glad to know that Mr. H. Ireland, 57, The Mall, Ealing, W. 5, caters for their needs at specially reduced prices. Mr. Ireland who is an expert in ladies' tailoring, and a practical furrier, supplies uniforms, cloaks, and costumes of all wool serges and gabardines, and his work is much commended by those nurses who have had practical experience of it.

A CREATIVE SPIRIT.

MARGARET ETHEL MACDONALD.*

The present generation knows little of the life of Mrs. Ramsay MacDonald, wife of the Prime Minister, and the moment is the psychological one for a reprint of the "tale of her faithful work and creative spirit," first written by her husband in 1912. Its special interest is its romance, laid up, as in lavender, between its pages, for those with understanding; and also the fact that it stands as a history of the Labour movement, during the years which it covers, in which she bore so honourable and brave a part.

It was destiny which brought together the daughter of Dr. John Gladstone, Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Institution, and the rising young Scottish journalist, and Labour protagonist, who, from far Lossiemouth, on the Moray Firth, had come to London to find himself.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald relates: "I was the candidate of the Independent Labour Party for Southampton, and in May (1895) was in St. Thomas' Hospital. While there, a letter came from an unknown person signed 'M. E. Gladstone' enclosing a subscription for my election fund. My acknowledgment, I find, is noted in a small special notebook thus: 'First letter from J. R. MacDonald; May 29th, 1895'; and beneath is the further note: 'First saw him, Pioneer Club, June 13, 1895.'"

Her interest in Socialism was not without its penalties. "Her relatives with the exception of her father and his immediate household, were bitter and bigoted Unionists, and had already (in 1890) given her reason to know that political thinking on her own part would be visited by their grave displeasure. In fact, the persecution which she had to endure later on with aching heart and tear-stained cheek, because she knew no guide but conscience, was then begun. They were hunting after respectable connections; she was seeking after truth. 'I caught it hot and strong for being a Gladstonian.'"

In the summer of 1896 Margaret Ethel Gladstone became engaged to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, and in November they were married and went to live at 3, Lincoln's Inn Fields. He writes: "She hastened up to Lossiemouth where the New Year time was spent. She longed to have one who was a mother to her—one all the more dear because she had been buffeted by the world. In the early days of the year we returned to our labours, and thenceforth there was no pause. All our interests were the same. We ploughed in the same furrow. In May she wrote: 'It is perfectly delightful now to look out on our Fields. They are so fresh and green, and then there are laburnums and lilacs, hawthorns and irises, and last, but not least, our County Council Band on Friday evenings. I sit out there sometimes with a book, and the place is quite lively with all the children playing. They make friends with and laugh at me, and the tired mothers with their babies, and the clerks, and all the sorts of people who sit there.'" In the Fields was erected later a memorial seat, a picture of which is here reproduced by the courtesy of Messrs. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., which depicts her amongst the children whom she loved.

The Memorial Inscription.

The following inscription appears:

"This seat is placed here in memory of Margaret MacDonald, who spent her life in helping others"

"She was the daughter of John and Margaret Gladstone. She was born in Kensington in 1870, was married to Ramsay MacDonald in 1896, and lived with him at 3, Lincoln's Inn Fields. Here her children were born, and here she died in 1911. She brought joy to those with whom, and for whom she lived and worked. Her heart went out in fellowship to her fellow women, and in love to the children of the people, whom she served as a citizen, and helped as a sister. She quickened faith and zeal in others by her life, and took no rest from doing good."

* George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., Ruskin House, 40, Museum Street, W.C. 1. 5s. net.

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